

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0029] A method for calculating the average weight of each of a plurality of portions of material fed from a hopper. The method is carried out by: first weighing the hopper; after the
5 first weighing, dispensing a given plurality of portions of material; then, in a second weighing step, again weighing the hopper; calculating the difference between the weight of the hopper determined in the first weighing step and the weight of said hopper determined in the second weighing step, the
10 difference constituting the loss of weight of said hopper; and dividing the loss of weight of the hopper by the given plurality of portions. The weighing steps may be performed with a weighing device having a load cell and the given plurality of portions is equal to at least the number
15 calculated by dividing the sensitivity of said load cell by the estimated weight of each fed portion.